

GAMEFACE

INDIANS

MAGAZINE

A SERIOUS
SANDY
SUMMER!

Photo Credit: Gregory Drezdson

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SEP97 GAMEFACE (ALOMAR)



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Special thanks to everyone who assisted the Advertising/Publications staff of the Indians in the development of this publication.

Graphic design by the Cleveland Indians. Printed by Hiney Printing Company.

Cover photo by Gregory Drezdzon. Artwork by ZZ Design.

The 1997 Indians Game Face Magazine is published by the Cleveland Indians Baseball Company Limited Partnership, Jacobs Field, 2401 Ontario Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44115-4003.

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36 It's All In The Script

by Steve Herrick Hollywood producers may find the story of Sandy Alomar's unbelievable season a bit on the corny side, but Cleveland Indians fans are eating it up and coming back for more.

18 The Mysterious Life Of Mo Berg

by Jack De Vries *The sixth in a historical series of Tribe greats.* Though a fascinating, highly intelligent man, Mo Berg was an enigma... and the press loved him. The former Indians catcher retired from baseball in 1941, and two years later, he was employed by the Office of Strategic Services—in other words, he was just your run-of-the-mill spy—becoming a top agent in Europe!

54 Preserving The Past

by Tom Bochenek What started out as a childhood hobby has turned out to be a true collector's dream. Longtime Tribe fan Jim Ward continues to relive his youth by collecting the baseball cards of his beloved Cleveland Indians, in hopes that his sons will preserve the tradition for years to come.

64 Winning At Home

The Cleveland Indians carry a lot of clout off the field as well. Indians players speak out about their community involvement and truly "winning at home."

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by Curtis Danburg

Indians Fans have been treated to two consecutive years of Post Season play due in part to the "Blueprint for Success," which was formulated in 1990. That formula has produced two back-to-back Central Division Championships, an AL Championship, and the first World Series appearance since 1954. Graduates of this plan such as Jim Thome, Manny Ramirez, and Charles Nagy have been the essential reason for the success of this organization over the past few years.

The mission of the plan was to build a successful foundation by making a commitment to player development that focused on revitalizing the Indians farm system. Players are given instruction and experience "down on the farm" before using their skills to contribute at the Major League level.

The Minor League system serves as the backbone to all successful big league clubs. "If you don't have a good Minor League system, you're not going to contend. You have to keep producing players to replace your stars as they get older," said Indians utility player Jeff Manto.

"Building a solid farm system starts with scouting," said Minor League Operations Assistant Gordy Gutowsky. "Once they get the players, it's our job to harness that talent and develop the tools that they possess. We try to get the maximum ability out of each player. We know not every player is going to make it to the big leagues, but there are guys who'll give their maximum effort in Double-A, and in doing so, will help other players to the Majors."

In placing an emphasis on the farm system and developing young talent, the Indians have almost tripled their expenditures since the late 1980's. "We've hired more scouts, invested in better equipment (like radar guns and computers) and better travel accommodations, and allocated more funds to aggressively pursue young prospects in the draft," Gutowsky explained. "Also more money was spent on uniforms and equipment, the winter development program, instructional leagues, and Spring Training."

"More than anything, putting money into the farm system shows pride in your organization—which is the bottom line. We want to make a first class impression that shows throughout the Major Leagues and instill in our players a first class attitude," said Gutowsky.

Manto, who's in his second stint with the Indians organization, has seen the farm system revival firsthand. "The Indians are really into teaching now. I didn't come up with the Indians, but I spent two years in Triple-A in the early 90s. When I saw players coming up through the system then, I could see that something was lacking," Manto acknowledged. "When I came back this year, I noticed they have great teachers and more hands-on staff. The coaching staff really cares about the players, which you don't see too much. In other organizations, coaches and trainers just go through the six months of their job and head home. Here, they enjoy their jobs."

The Indians are fortunate to provide their Minor Leaguers with great playing facilities.

"They have a great setup throughout the system," said



Photo Credit: Gregory Drezdson, all photos

former Tribe farmhand Paul Shuey. "You can go to the ballpark, get your work done, and stay in a rhythm instead of having to go to a public gym for a workout. That makes it a lot easier."

"You're only as good as your conditions. Who wants to work in a place that's run down?" questioned Manto. "We're no different than anyone else, you want to go to a facility where you're happy to work in. If your facilities aren't up to par, your work is going to be sub-par."

Manto is a good judge of Minor League baseball and how it has evolved because he has spent at least a portion in each of his 13 professional seasons in the Minors. "When I was coming up, the conditions were horrendous. Looking back, I thought it was the 'best thing since sliced bread,' but now I realize it wasn't. You're talking about terrible conditions on the field and in the clubhouse. Sometimes there wasn't even a certified trainer. The bus was always breaking down and the meal money was low," Manto said. "It was frustrating at times because you weren't used to these conditions and you'd think to yourself, 'This is what the game of baseball is all about?' and 'My god, I have to do this for a living,'" explained Manto. "You really don't know the true tradition of baseball at that point. Only when you continue to play do you begin to understand how great it is."

Coming out of high school and college, many young players have to make a lot of adjustments. Shuey said, "the only transition problems I had was with my motion and mechanics. The Indians wanted me to change my style from what I was used to in college—which has taken a long time. It's been a long road to get where I'm at now."

Manto explained, "the biggest adjustment for me was being away from home and doing things on your own that your parents used to do for you—like laundry, cooking, and cleaning. I think that's a bigger transition more than the game itself. The game is 99% mental, so, when you're getting crazed about things you've never done before, that's a bigger adjustment than getting used to a wooden bat."

Keeping those adjustments in mind, the Indians have trailblazed a new program, which was designed to ease the transitions that Shuey and Manto experienced. "Each year we invite our better prospects to participate in our winter development program, which is designed to not only develop their baseball talent but also personal skills," said Gutowsky.

"People will say the game is a lot more enjoyable in the Majors because of the fringe benefits, but you have more camaraderie in the Minors than in the bigs," Manto described. "In the Majors, everyone has their own program and a family, and when the game is over, they spend time with their families. In the Minors, you have each other and that's it."

Another function of the Minor League system is having prospects to trade for a veteran to help in the pennant race, which has been evident during the past three seasons. In '95, the Tribe traded three prospects for Ken Hill. Last year Jeromy Burnitz was traded for Kevin Seitzer and this year Danny Graves, Damian Jackson, Steve Kline, and three others were traded for John Smiley and Jeff Juden.

"There's no question about it, you need some studs in the Minors so you can acquire free agents for your big league club when the time comes," said Shuey.

Manto agreed, "You need to have a good Minor League base when you're competing for a championship because you need to have quality players to trade in order to get a quality player."

Baseball's most important pitch this season won't come from a mound. In an effort to combat drinking and driving, Major League Baseball, together with the Techniques for Effective Alcohol Management (TEAM) coalition, continues to make a comprehensive appeal to fans this year. The message: PLEASE DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE!

As part of the TEAM program, each Major League club reviews its alcohol policies and runs public service announcements asking fans to drink responsibly and warns them against the consequences of drinking and driving.

The Cleveland Indians want you safe, because we want you back. Please drink responsibly.

In an effort to make everyone's visit to the Ballpark as safe and enjoyable as possible, a list of guidelines has been developed.

The Indians ask that you follow these guidelines, or be subject to ejection from the Ballpark, and in some cases, subject to criminal prosecution by the Cleveland Police Department.

To ensure that each game is a pleasant experience for each and every guest, the Indians have established the following "Ground Rules:"

- Jacobs Field is a non-smoking facility with designated smoking areas. Non-smoking areas include: the entire seating bowl of the Ballpark (including the outdoor seating of Suites and Club Seats); KidsLand; and all public rest rooms. Smoking is permitted in the following areas: Back Yard; Patio area on the Main Concourse; all three Concourse levels (Main, Mezzanine and Upper Deck) on the East Ninth Street side of the Ballpark and Upper Deck pavilion area on the Carnegie side

of the Ballpark (all of these locations are open-air areas with picnic tables, concession stands, and rest room facilities nearby); Bleacher Concourse on Eagle Ave. side of the Ballpark. In addition, the Terrace Club and Club Lounge have both smoking and non-smoking areas. Jacobs Field has signage identifying designated smoking areas for your convenience.

- Cans, glass bottles, plastic beverage containers, thermos bottles, and squeeze bottles are not permitted into Jacobs Field.
- Due to security concerns, hard-sided coolers/containers are not permitted. Soft-sided containers and coolers are permitted.
- Food items and juice boxes are permitted inside the Ballpark, provided they are not inside a hard-sided cooler or container.
- Pets are not allowed inside the Ballpark. However, guide dogs for persons with sight disabilities are permitted.
- The resale (scalping) of Indians tickets is strictly prohibited and subject to prosecution by the Cleveland Police Department.
- Fans are permitted to bring and display banners, provided they do not interfere with the game, obstruct the view of fans, or carry obscene, political or commercial messages. Banners may be hung from the facing of the Upper Deck. Poles and sticks are strictly prohibited.

- Fans may bring small umbrellas into Jacobs Field as long as they do not interfere with other fans' enjoyment of the game. Large golf umbrellas are discouraged.
- Cameras and video recorders are permitted. However, any resale of the photography or video is strictly prohibited. Team name, logos, and players' likenesses are all copyrighted material.
- Persons observed breaking the law (eg. using illegal drugs, or drinking alcohol under age) will be subject to immediate ejection and/or criminal prosecution.
- Persons using obscene or abusive language, or engaging in any other antisocial conduct offensive to those around them, will be asked by Indians personnel to cease this conduct. If the offensive conduct persists, those involved will be ejected from Jacobs Field.
- Persons entering the playing field, throwing or attempting to throw objects onto the field will be subject to immediate ejection from Jacobs Field and/or criminal prosecution.

If you have any questions, comments, suggestions, or problems, please visit the Indians Guest Service Center, located at Section 116 of the Main Concourse and in Section 519 of the Upper Concourse, or see one of our "Hosts" throughout the Ballpark. The Indians thank you for your cooperation.

"It is our intention to make our home a safe, comfortable, family-oriented facility so every trip to Jacobs Field is most enjoyable," said Dennis Lehman, Indians Executive Vice President of Business.

"We believe these fan ground rules will ensure the intimate environment that we all seek."



Photo Credit: Gregory Drezdson

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Photo credit: Gregory Drezdson, all photos

It's All In The Script...

By Steve Herrick



It's a script Hollywood producers would reject as too corny.

Hometown player is having the season of his life and gets selected to the All-Star Game that's being played—big surprise here—in his home Ballpark. The player, who also happens to carry a 30-game hitting streak into the break, gets a huge ovation from his fans in pregame introductions.

And the roar is even louder when he enters the game in the sixth inning.

The story doesn't end there. The player, with another standing ovation, steps up to the plate in the bottom of the seventh with the score tied, 1-1. With one swing of his bat, he sends a game-winning home run into the bleachers. As he races around the bases, the fans give him an ovation that shakes the Ballpark to its foundation. The cheering doesn't stop until he comes out of the dugout and tips his cap. When the game ends, the hometown hero is named "Most Valuable Player" of the game, the first time a player from the home team has ever won such an honor. Naturally, there's a final ovation from his adoring fans as he receives the award on the field in front of a world-wide television audience.

A mushy story?

No doubt about it, but in the story of Sandy Alomar's '97 season, it's true. Maybe Hollywood wouldn't go for it, but it's been a big hit in Cleveland.

Like the fans who were at Jacobs Field on July 8, or those who watched the game on television, Alomar will never forget this year's Midsummer Classic.

"To hit the game-winning home run in an All-Star Game in your hometown is a once in a lifetime dream," he said. "It was so special."

This year's All-Star appearance was the fifth of Alomar's career. He was chosen to the American League team as the back-

up catcher to Texas' Ivan Rodriguez. Just making the team gave Alomar a memory that will last the rest of his life.

"It was awesome," he said. "It will always be there. It was a great accomplishment. A player only gets one chance to be chosen to participate in the All-Star Game in his own park. I couldn't ask for anything else."

Alomar might not have wanted to ask for anything else, but he and the fans got it when he came to bat against San Francisco Giants' lefthander Shawn Estes. The New York Yankees' Bernie Williams drew a one-out walk and moved to second on a wild

pitch. Alomar drove a 2-2 pitch into the bleachers for the deciding runs in the American League's 3-1 win.

Alomar wasn't trying to hit a home run, but in this story, there are no unhappy endings.

"I was trying to drive in the run," he said.

"It's very difficult to go deep in your first at-bat against a pitcher. I had to learn the pitcher quick."

As the ball landed in the bleachers, the fans exploded and Alomar pumped his fist as he rounded first base.

"I felt like I was flying," he said.

Alomar was pounded by his teammates, including fellow Indians teammates Jim Thome and David Justice, when he returned to the dugout.

"Everybody was all over me," he said.

His brother, Roberto, the Baltimore Orioles' second baseman, was also there to greet him.

"He said he kind of had the

feeling I was going to hit a home run," said Sandy. "Everybody said that to me, but they said it after I hit the home run."

The parents of the Alomar brothers watched the game on television in Puerto Rico.

"They called the next day," he said. "They congratulated me and said they thought it was great. They said they had a feeling something good was going to happen."



Photo Credit: Gregory Drezdzen, all photos



What most fans didn't know was the Alomar brothers played the game with heavy hearts. Their grandmother, Tonee, passed away the previous weekend in Puerto Rico. Sandy and Roberto have dedicated their seasons to her.

"It was a little tough for me and Robby," said Sandy. "We were thinking about her. I know she was

looking down and was real happy. What I learned from her was to never give up. She was very sick and never gave up. I've been hurt a lot and never gave up."

Their grandmother was a big influence as the Alomar children grew up.

"She was a strong woman," said Sandy. "She was always in our minds the last five years. When we were little, we would spend Saturdays and Sundays at her house. Robby and I would play in her yard with our bats and balls. She liked baseball. She didn't know much about the game, but she knew her daughter was married to a baseball player (Sandy Sr., who enjoyed a 15-year Major League career) and her kids were going to be baseball players."

Tribe fans know the All-Star Game hasn't been Alomar's only big moment this season. His 30-game hitting streak ran from May 25 through July 6. He batted .422 (49-for-116) with 14 doubles, two home runs, and 16 RBI during the streak. Alomar fell one game short of the club record, Nap Lajoie's 31-game hitting streak, which was set in 1906.

"Staying consistent is what counts," Alomar said. "Streaks are nothing but statistics. You could have a 50-game hitting streak and go 1-for-4 every day. I had a 17-game hitting streak last year and there were many times I only got one hit. I don't

think my average went up very much. It's more important to be there in a late-game pressure situation and get the hit that keeps the rally going. Consistency is the hardest thing for a catcher because there are some days you're tired and worn out when you get to the park."

Alomar is also putting up the best power numbers of his career. He hit his 15th home



run of the season on August 3, a career high.

Alomar has been waiting to have a season like this since he won the 1990 AL "Rookie of the Year" award. He batted .290 with nine homers and 66 RBI that season. Better days ahead looked certain, but

**Sandy and his wife, Christie,
with their children,
Marcus and Marissa.**

playing professional baseball since 1984. He isn't sure how much longer he will play.

"I haven't given it much thought," he said. "I'm going to take it one year at a time and go for as long as I can. A lot can happen to a catcher. I hope I can stay healthy and see how I perform. I like the players. You only get this chance once. You have to enjoy it while it lasts. You'll never be 25 again."

While Alomar will always remember his All-Star Game accomplishment and while he's delighted with his personal achievements, he thinks another goal is more important.

"This is a dream season, but it will be better if we win the World Series," he said. "There's no project complete until we win the whole thing. I can have



Photo Credit: Gregory Drezdson

a great year, but it won't mean as much if we don't go all the way. We want to win and bring a championship home to this city. That would mean a lot more to me than my individual accomplishments."

What an ending to the story that would be.

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(besides going to the game)



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Lanny Davis

HOW TO SCORE

Baseball fans can enjoy the sport to the fullest extent by keeping track of the game and pinpointing those big plays that bring victory or defeat. All you need is a basic knowledge of the rules.

Although there are countless scoring methods, experts use a simple code based on numbering players by position and tracing action through the use of symbols. It's easy and fun.

In fact, why not devise your own scoring system with the basic suggestions on this page.

One such suggestion on player substitutions is to use a heavy or wavy line under or over a box to indicate a change, either of a player or batter.

If a batter flies to the right-fielder, merely use the figure 9. If it is a foul fly, use 9F.

Now that you are an official "scorer," you can really enjoy baseball games.

Team	Pos.	1	2
Rightfielder	9	4-6 W	
2nd Baseman	4	3 ④FO	
1st Baseman	3	=	
Centerfielder	8	SF 8	
Designated Hitter	DH	K	
Leftfielder	7		4-6
Catcher	2		DP 4-6-3
3rd Baseman	5		≡
Shortstop	6		7
Pitcher	1		
TOTALS	R / H	1 / 1	1 / 2

Walked and was forced out at second (2nd baseman to shortstop).

Reached first on fielder's choice when runner was forced out, advanced to third on double by 3rd place hitter, scored on 4th place hitter's sacrifice fly.

Doubled; did not advance further.

Flied out to center field scoring runner on third.

Struck out—end of the inning.

Singled; later forced out at second (2nd baseman to shortstop in first half of double play).

Hit into double play (2nd baseman to shortstop to 1st baseman).

Hit home run.

Flied out to leftfielder—end of inning.

USE THESE SYMBOLS FOR PLAYS

— Single
= Double
≡ Triple
≡ Home Run
E Error
F Foul Fly
DP Double Play

FC Fielder's Choice
HP Hit by Pitcher
WP Wild Pitch
SB Stolen Base
SH Sacrifice Hit
SF Sacrifice Fly
CS Caught Stealing

PB Passed Ball
BK Balk
K Struck Out
BB Base on Balls
FO Forced Out
IW Intentional Walk

CAN YOU SCORE THIS PLAY?

The ball was hit to the shortstop, who threw it to the second baseman. The second baseman was able to force out the runner who had been at first. He then threw the ball to the first baseman to get the batter out, turning a double play.



Photo credit: Gregory Drezdron



In this example, the hitter reached first base on a walk, stole second, advanced to third on pitcher's balk, scored on a wild pitch.

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Or you can work your
way up through
the Minors.

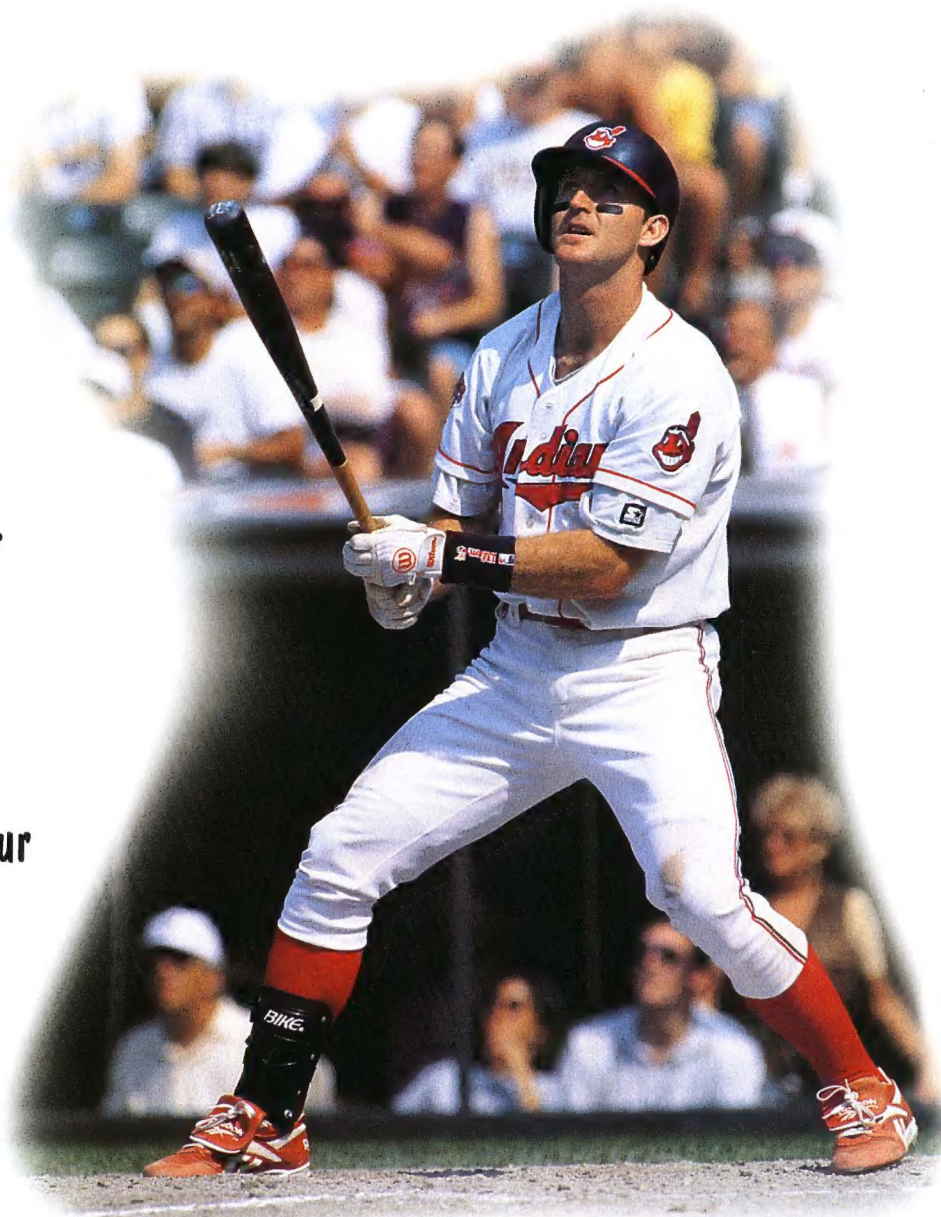


Photo Credit: Gregory Drezdson

Indians Slugger Jim Thome spent three years in the Tribe's Minor League system before he put on an Indians uniform. But you just have to spend a few minutes at the Indians Team Shops, because here, you can get official Tribe jerseys and caps just like the players wear. You can also get T-shirts, sweatshirts, sweaters, jackets, baseballs, pennants, flags, videos, children's items, and novelties, too.

Stock up for the new season while the selection is good. Visit the Indians Team Shop at Jacobs Field, the Galleria at Erieview, Belden Village Mall in Canton, Great Lakes Mall in Mentor, Westgate Mall in Fairview Park, SouthPark Center in Strongsville, and Summit Mall in Fairlawn.

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THE PLAYERS



Photo Credit: Gregory Drezdson



46
Jason
Jacome

pitcher

Bats: L **Height:** 6'1"
Throws: L **Weight:** 185
Born: 11/24/70 **Resides:** Tucson, AZ
1996...

- Finished 0-4 with a 4.72 ERA and 1 save in 49 games (2 starts) for the Kansas City Royals (47.2 IP, 67 H, 27 R/25 ER, 22 BB, 32 SO)... Lone save of the season came on September 1 at Detroit... Recorded six holds on the year.
- Was 0-3 with a 2.47 ERA in his 47 relief appearances and 0-1 with a 29.35 ERA in his two starts... Allowed just 1 ER over an 18.2-inning stretch covering 20 appearances from May 13-July 7.
- Allowed just 11 of 35 inherited runners to score on the year... Retired 30 of 47 first batters faced in his relief appearances... Entered a game before the sixth inning just twice all season.

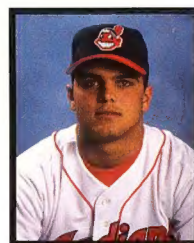


7
Jeff
Juden

pitcher

Bats: R **Height:** 6'8"
Throws: R **Weight:** 265
Born: 1/19/71 **Resides:** Salem, MA
1996/'97...

- Acquired from Montreal Expos on July 31... Compiled a record of 11-5 with a 4.22 ERA in 22 starts for the Expos in '97... Tossed 3 CG and had two 10+ strikeout outings... Made Tribe debut on August 5 at DET (ND, 3.2 IP, 5 H, 3 R/ER).
- Won first 5 decisions in '97 (4/2-5/24), extending his career-high win streak to 10 games... Went 5-0 with a 3.27 ERA in 58 relief appearances with the Expos and Giants in '96... Struck out a career-best 14 batters over 8.1 IP at TOR, July 1, outdueling Roger Clemens in the 2-1 Montreal win.
- Owns a career record of 19-16 w/a 4.29 ERA in 106 ML games... Houston's 1st pick (12th overall) in the 1989 draft.



27
Jaret
Wright

pitcher

Bats: R **Height:** 6'2"
Throws: R **Weight:** 230
Born: 12/29/75 **Resides:** Anaheim, CA
1996/'97...

- Made his Major League debut on June 24, 1997 vs. Minnesota... Got the win in the Tribe's 10-5 victory... His father, Clyde, also made his debut vs. Minnesota.
- Went 4-1 with a 1.80 ERA in seven '97 starts at Buffalo (45.0 IP, 30 H, 16 R/9 ER, 19 BB, 47 SO) before his call to the big leagues... AAA batters were hitting .185 (30-162) off him in '97.
- At Class A Kinston in '96, Jaret went 7-4 w/a 2.50 ERA in 19 GS... Suffered a broken jaw at the 1996 Class A All-Star Game when he was hit by a bat swung by Durham's Ron Wright... Tribe's first round selection in the '94 June Draft (#10 overall).

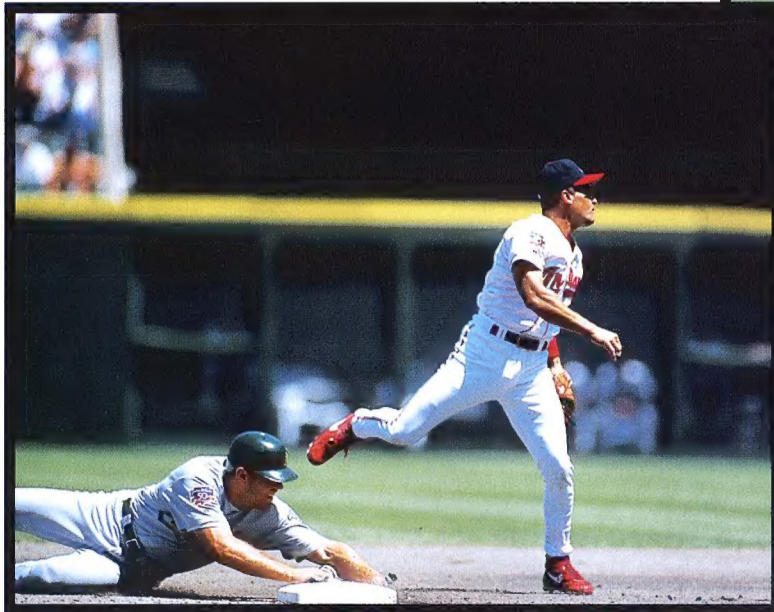
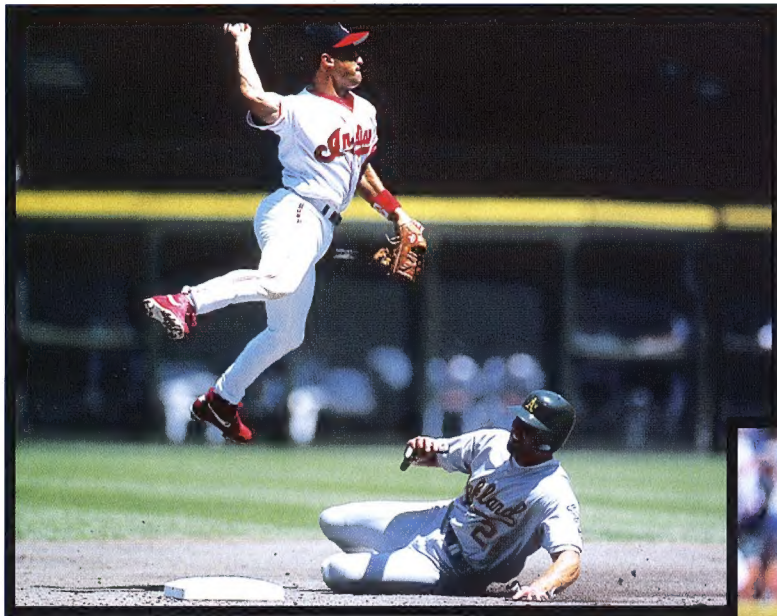


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MAJOR LEAGUE LEAP FROG!